

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We will now be led in prayer by Father Paul Lavin, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, DC.

We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, offered the following prayer:

In the book of Ecclesiastes we hear:

A good name is better than ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

It is better to harken to a wise man's rebuke than to harken to the song of fools;

For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the fool's laughter.

Better is the end of speech than its beginning; better is the patient spirit than the lofty spirit.—Eccl. 7:1-8.

Let us pray:

As this session of the Senate draws to a close, let the end of our speech be better than the beginning. Let the decisions we have made and the ones we will make in these closing hours reflect Your will and be pleasing to You.

May the time we and our staffs spend with our families and with those we represent be really times of re-creation in Your Spirit, and may all of us return here safely.

May the gifts of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit unite us in faith, hope, and love, now and forever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the pending Wellstone amendment with 1 hour of debate remaining under the previous agreement. After all time is used or yielded back, the Senate will proceed to a vote on the Wellstone amendment, which will be followed by a vote on the Moynihan amendment No. 2663. Therefore, Senators can expect two back-to-back votes to begin at approximately 10:30 a.m. It is hoped that further progress can be made on the appropriations process during today's session, and therefore votes can be anticipated throughout the day. It is also hoped that an agreement can be reached regarding the remaining amendments to the bankruptcy reform bill so that the Senate can complete the bill prior to the impending adjournment.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 625, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 625) to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Feingold amendment No. 2522, to provide for the expenses of long term care.

Hatch/Torricelli amendment No. 1729, to provide for domestic support obligations.

WELLSTONE amendment No. 2537, to disallow claims of certain insured depository institutions.

Wellstone amendment No. 2538, with respect to the disallowance of certain claims and to prohibit certain coercive debt collection practices.

Feinstein amendment No. 1696, to limit the amount of credit extended under an open end consumer credit plan to persons under the age of 21.

Feinstein amendment No. 2755, to discourage indiscriminate extensions of credit and resulting consumer insolvency.

Schumer/Durbin amendment No. 2759, with respect to national standards and homeowner home maintenance costs.

Schumer/Durbin amendment No. 2762, to modify the means test relating to safe harbor provisions.

Schumer amendment No. 2763, to ensure that debts incurred as a result of clinic violence are nondischargeable.

Schumer amendment No. 2764, to provide for greater accuracy in certain means testing.

Schumer amendment No. 2765, to include certain dislocated workers' expenses in the debtor's monthly expenses.

Dodd amendment No. 2531, to protect certain education savings.

Dodd amendment No. 2753, to amend the Truth in Lending Act to provide for enhanced information regarding credit card balance payment terms and conditions, and to provide for enhanced reporting of credit card solicitations to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and to Congress.

Hatch/Dodd/Gregg amendment No. 2536, to protect certain education savings.

Feingold amendment No. 2748, to provide for an exception to a limitation on an automatic stay under section 362(b) of title 11, United States Code, relating to evictions and similar proceedings to provide for the payment of rent that becomes due after the petition of a debtor is filed.

Schumer/Santorum amendment No. 2761, to improve disclosure of the annual percentage rate for purchases applicable to credit card accounts.

Durbin amendment No. 2659, to modify certain provisions relating to pre-bankruptcy financial counseling.

Durbin amendment No. 2661, to establish parameters for presuming that the filing of a case under chapter 7 of title 11, United States Code, does not constitute an abuse of that chapter.

Torricelli amendment No. 2655, to provide for enhanced consumer credit protection.

Wellstone amendment No. 2752, to impose a moratorium on large agribusiness mergers and to establish a commission to review large agriculture mergers, concentration, and market power.

Moynihan amendment No. 2663, to make certain improvements to the bill with respect to low-income debtors.

AMENDMENT NO. 2752

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 1 hour of debate on the Wellstone amendment No. 2752.

Who yields time?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, maybe to be fair to everybody, I better suggest the absence of a quorum and that time would be equally divided.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I yield 10 minutes to Senator DORGAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, first of all, I commend Senator WELLSTONE for his leadership on this issue. I rise to support the amendment that he has offered. I have been involved with Senator WELLSTONE in constructing this proposal. The proposal very simply is to try to have a time out of sorts with respect to the mergers that are occurring in the agricultural processing industries. The question at the root of all of this is, What is the value of a family farm in our country and do we care about whether this country has family farmers in its future?

If we do, if we care about keeping family farmers in our country's future, then we must do something about the concentration that is occurring and plugging the arteries of the free market system in the agricultural economy. Family farmers are not able to compete in a free and open system. It is just not happening. Why? Because of these mergers and concentration in the large agricultural industries.

Let me show you with this chart what is happening to family farmers. The family farm share of the retail cereal grains dollar has gone down, down, and way down. Why? Why is the family farm share of the food dollar going down? Because as my friend from Minnesota likes to say, the big food giants have muscled their way to the dinner table. He is absolutely correct. They are grabbing more of the food dollar. The family farmer gets less. The food processors are making substantial amounts, record dollars, and the family farmers are, unfortunately, not able to make it.

The farm share of the retail pork dollar is down, down, way down. The family farm share of the retail beef dollar? Exactly the same thing.

Why is all of this occurring? Because concentration in these industries means there are fewer firms. For example, in market concentration in meat processing, in beef, the top four firms